

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, to read as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a basement membrane comprising
  - (a) a step of preparing a support structure with a sugar-chain coat having  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl nonreducing end or 2-acetoamide-2-deoxy- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl non reducing end which can localize a receptor having an activity to accumulate basement membrane components onto a basal surface of the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane, comprising coating a support structure with a polymer having a sugar chain; and
  - (b) a step of culturing cells having an ability to form a basement membrane, wherein the cells are seeded and cultured in a culture medium on the support structure.
2. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are cultured on of a support structure with both opposite surfaces coated by a sugar chain.
3. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein a component secreted from the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane is used as a basement membrane component.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously presented) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein a sugar-chain coat is used, the sugar chain or a part of the sugar chain that binds to a receptor can be replaced by a basement membrane component.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously presented) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein one or more types of polymers selected from PV-GlcNAc, PV-CA and PV-Lam is used as the polymer having a sugar chain.

9. (Currently amended) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are cocultured with fibroblasts or Matrikel<sup>TM</sup>.

10. (Currently amended) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to any of claims 1—9 claim 1, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are cultured in the presence of one or more types of basement membrane components.

11. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are cultured in the presence of TGF- $\beta$  (transforming growth factor).

12. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein the cells having an ability to form a basement membrane are epithelial cells, endothelial cells or mesenchymal cells.

13. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein the cells and/or fibroblasts having an ability to form a basement membrane are basement membrane component-hyperexpressing cells into which genes of one or more types of a basement membrane component are transfected.

14. (Original) The method for preparing a basement membrane according to claim 1, wherein the support structure is a fibrous collagen.

15-69. (Canceled)